

We claim:

1. A locking mechanism for an item of furniture having two or more drawers and means mounting the drawers for openable and closable movement, in which each drawer has associated with it a latching device co-operable with the furniture item to allow opening movement of the drawer in a first position of the latching device and to prevent said opening movement in a second position of the latching device, there being a connecting member linking together the latching devices of all the drawers such that opening of any one of the drawers causes the latching devices of all the other drawers to move to their second position, whilst closure of said one drawer causes the latching devices of all the other drawers to return to their first position, wherein the latching devices are connectable to said connecting member at positions to be determined by reference to fixed points on the furniture item for the drawer mounting means.
2. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 wherein said latching devices are releasably connectable to said connecting member.
3. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 2 where in said latching devices are connectable to the connecting member by means of a snap fit.
4. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 wherein each latching device has a peg or the like to register with a preformed hole in the furniture item corresponding to a respective drawer mounting means and said latching devices are designed to be connectable to the connecting member whilst their pegs are registered in respective said preformed holes.
5. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 wherein said connecting member is designed to be located for slidable movement in a preformed groove in the furniture item.

6. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 wherein each said latching device is arranged to cooperate with a pin associated with its respective drawer.

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7. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 6 wherein the drawers are mounted to the furniture item in non-adjustable positions and each pin is mounted on its associated drawer.

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8. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 wherein the drawers are mounted to the furniture item in adjustable positions and each pin is mounted on the drawer mounting means of its associated drawer.

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9. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 8 wherein said drawer mounting means are configured for receiving said mount for their respective pins at a chosen position.

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10. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 8 wherein said pins are mounted to their respective drawer mounting means by means of a snap fitting.

11. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mechanism is operable additionally and selectively to disallow opening movement of all the drawers.

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12. A furniture item comprising a locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1.

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13. A method of assembling a drawer locking device for an item of furniture comprising a plurality of drawers, said drawer locking device comprising respective blocking devices for blocking movement of said plurality of drawers and a connector for connecting said blocking devices

such that movement of any one of said plurality of blocking devices caused by opening of the respective drawer causes a corresponding movement of each of the remaining said blocking devices to respective positions in which opening of the respective drawers is blocked, said method comprising connecting said 5 blocking devices with said furniture item at respective reference positions provided in said furniture item, fixing said connector to said blocking devices when said blocking devices are connected with said furniture item at said respective reference positions to provide a drawer locking device in which said blocking devices are fixed to said connector at spaced apart positions 10 determined by said reference positions and disconnecting said drawer locking device from said item of furniture for fitting to said item of furniture in an operative position.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said reference positions 15 are defined by respective holes provided in said furniture item for assembly of respective drawer runners for said plurality of drawers.

15. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said reference positions are defined by respective drawer runners for said plurality of drawers.

20 16. A drawer locking device for an item of furniture having a plurality of drawers, said locking device comprising a plurality of blocking devices each of which, in use, is movable between a first position permitting opening of a respective drawer and a second position in which opening of the respective drawer is blocked, and a connecting member for connecting said blocking devices such that movement of any one of the blocking device causes a similar movement of each other blocking device, said blocking devices each 25 having a first connecting portion for releasable connection with respective reference connections associated with each drawer in said furniture item and a second connecting portion for connection with said connecting member, the arrangement being such that said connecting member can be connected to said 30

second connecting portions of said blocking devices when said blocking devices are connected with said reference connections by said first connecting portions whereby said blocking devices are connected to said connecting member with a spacing substantially determined by said reference connections.

17. An item of furniture comprising a drawer locking device as claimed in claim 16.